

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 OIC-02 AF-08 EA-07 NEA-10

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P 122054Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3925

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

USIA WASHDC

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PARIS FOR UNESCO; QUITO FOR PAO BELL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG,UNESCO, XM, XL, XK

SUBJECT: UNESCO INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATIONS

REF: CARACAS 8323

1. IN A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD FRIDAY, JULY 9, SPECIFICALLY TO EXPLAIN VENEZUELA'S POSITIONS AT THE COSTA RICA UNESCO CONFERENCE ON INFORMATION POLICIES, GUIDO GROOSCORS, INFORMATION MINISTER, ANNOUNCED THAT THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION IN COSTA RICA WILL PROPOSE THE CREATION OF A LATIN AMERICAN OWNED AND OPERATED NEWS SERVICE. HE SAID THAT SUCH A NEWS SERVICE "WOULD BE A VALUABLE INSTRUMENT FOR PRESENTING AN ACCURATE IMAGE OF LATIN AMERICA," OFFSETTING WHAT HE CALLED THE NEGATIVE" PICTURES PRESENTED BY NEWS AGENCIES OWNED BY COMPANIES "BASED IN THE INDUSTRIALIZED WORLD."

2. GROOSCORS SAID AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HE AGREED WITH INDIRA GHANDI'S RECENT CHARGE THAT PRESENT WIRE SERVICES OFTEN PRESENT A NEGATIVE VIEW OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD. GHANDI HAD ALSO CALLED FOR THE CREATION OF NEWS AGENCIES OWNED AND OPERATED BY  
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GROUPS OF COUNTRIES IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD.

3. REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO VENEZUELA'S POSITION AT THE CONTROVERSIAL CONFERENCE, GROOSCORS SAID, "VENEZUELA WILL STRONGLY BACK THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND UNHINDERED ACCESS TO INFORMATION." THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION, HE SAID, "WILL DEVOTE ITSELF TO DEMONSTRATING THAT A FREE PRESS AND UNHINDERED ACCESS TO INFORMATION ARE AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT TOOLS AVAILABLE TO DEMOCRACIES FOR PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES."

4. ACCORDING TO PUBLISHED PRESS REPORTS OF THE CONFERENCE, GROOSCORS DECLINED TO CLARIFY THE APPARENT CONTRADICTION BETWEEN HIS STATEMENT AND A STATEMENT MADE EARLIER BY PRESIDENT PEREZ IN SUPPORT OF REGULATION OF THE FLOW OF INFORMATION FROM ONE COUNTRY TO ANOTHER.

5. COMMENT: GROOSCORS' CALL FOR A NEW LATIN AMERICAN WIRE SERVICE AND HIS ENDORESEMENT OF THE GHANDI PROPOSAL INDICATE THAT VENEZUELA MAY STILL SUPPORT SOME FORM OF INTERNATIONAL REGULATION OF INFORMATIONAL NEWS FLOW AT THE COSTA RICA CONFERENCE. DESPITE REPEATED QUESTIONS AT THE NEWS CONFERENCE, GROOSCORS REFUSED TO SAY WHETHER THE LATIN AMERICAN NEWS SERVICE WOULD FUNCTION UNDER GOVERNMENTAL SPONSORSHIP, PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OR A COMBINATION OF THE TWO.

6. PRESS REPORTS OF THE NEWS CONFERENCE MAKE NO REFERENCE TO THE INTER-AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION MEETING BEING HELD IN OPPOSITION TO THE UNESCO CONFERENCE.

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## Message Attributes

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